

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL — OF — MARKET RASEN.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH on the SANITATION of MARKET RASEN URBAN DISTRICT for the Year 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the Market Rasen Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to report as follows:—

WATER.—The supply is piped from springs at Bully Hill above Tealby. The water is pure but hard. The supply at the source is ample, but the main is not large enough to deliver it in sufficient quantity to keep up a constant supply to all parts of the town.

The supply is intermittent in Wold View, Linwood Road and Walesby Road, and also to upstairs taps and cisterns in other parts of the town.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The Rase—a slow shallow stream flows through the district. The banks are low and the fall of the ground very slight. The original bed of the stream crossed Waterloo Street some distance lower down than at present. The present bed of the stream is above the ground level, and ground floor level of the houses, in the lower part of Waterloo Street.

After passing under Waterloo Street the stream widens out into a mill pond. The margin between the working level of the mill dam and the overflow level of the banks of the stream between Jameson Bridge Street and Waterloo Street is small.

A sharp rain sends a large volume of water down from the Wolds, which on reaching the flat ground in this district and encountering a certain amount of obstructions from road bridges and the mill dam and the alteration of the original bed of the stream, slows down and the banks being inadequate to contain it overflows. Unless the banks are made higher or the level of the mill pond lower, such flooding will continue to occur.

SEWERS AND DRAINAGE.—The Sewers are adequate to the needs of the district, but owing in part to the very small natural fall in the ground, in part to the very circuitous route which some of these have been made to take, and in part to the sewers being joined or changed in direction at too sharp an angle, the flow is sluggish. Also the sewers which were laid to deal with the whole district are not fully made use of, so that the depth of flow is below the most effective depth.

Frequent complaint is made of foul gas coming from the manholes. The sewers are regularly flushed to try to lessen this nuisance, but this has been only partially successful.

Thorough ventilation of the sewers is the best method of dealing with the trouble. Where all the openings into the sewers are at ground level, and the ground level itself is very flat, it is difficult to control the movements of the air in the sewers. The varying atmospheric temperature and pressure or the discharge of any quantity of warm fluid into the drains may cause a discharge of foul smelling air from the sewers.

THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL FARM at Middle Rasen requires either more land or more settling tanks and filter beds. The effluent is and has been for a long time unfit for discharge into the Rase—the water from which is used for farm and even for domestic purposes sometimes.

THE HOUSE DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS are poor in quantity and quality in many cases. Very few houses have a water tap inside. The usual supply is a tap in the yard over a slop gully. Slop gulleys are frequently defective and the surrounding pavement broken and holding little pools of dirty water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There are still 106 Privies with fixed receptacles in the district and 261 Box Closets. In 1913 the numbers were 156 and 280 respectively. In the same time Water Closets have increased from 170 to 206. There is an improvement, but it is very slow, and in some cases it is not the poorest properties which are the slowest in improving.

In the case of property with fixed receptacle Closets, these must be replaced—and unless the property is so defective in other ways that it is likely to be condemned in a few years or rebuilt (in which case a box closet might suffice temporarily) water closets should be insisted on.

In the case of property with box closets, these if adequate and in good repair might remain until the fixed receptacle closets have been dealt with, but eventually all should be Water Closets.

ASHPITS.—There are still many of these. They should all be replaced by galvanised iron ash bins with a cover.

The removal of ashes and dry refuse from an ashpit to an open cart by means of a shovel and barrow, is a slow dirty unsanitary process, distributing much dirt and dust on the ground and in the air all round.

A sanitary dust bin can be carried or wheeled on a truck to a dust cart and emptied without nuisance in a fraction of the time required for transporting one harrowful of ashes in the other case.

Property in the main street of the town is still in some cases using old type of ashpits.

A covered cart for the removal of ashes should be provided.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are seven dairymen on the register in the district with fifteen cows. The premises are inspected half-yearly. Lime washing is carried out. No defects have been noted. Milk is also brought into the district from outside, night and morning.

The cleanliness of some of the milk supplied in the district is of a low standard.

More active interest should be taken in this matter. Samples should be taken and reports obtained as to its quality and cleanliness.

MEAT SUPPLY.—Is of good quality. No carcases have been condemned. There are three Slaughter Houses in the district. They suffer more or less from defects of construction and position. There is however an improvement in the way in which they are kept.

There are other slaughter houses outside the district where meat is killed and dressed for sale in the district.

As a result of these conditions, the premises and conditions attending on the slaughter and dressing of meat are not under supervision, and meat inspection is not regularly carried out. Not more than 10 % of carcases are inspected. One public slaughter house, properly kept, would be much better.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are five in the district. The following points have been noted and attention is again called to them.

Lime washing more frequently required, more care necessary to keep floors and benches clean and free from scraps which may get sour or musty or attract flies.

Strict attention to cleanliness of hands and clothing and utensils.

Provision of covered Sanitary Dust Bins.

Provision of sound Pavement and Flooring.

Destruction of flies and their breeding places.

OTHER FOODS.—Thirty-five tins of preserved foods were condemned and destroyed.

SCAVENGING is done by contract.

Box closets and ash bins are emptied fortnightly ; middens and ash pits on request sent to the Sanitary Inspector.

Nightsoil is disposed on to land.

Ashes and dry refuse shot into disused brick pits.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year there have been three cases of Diphtheria, four cases of Typhoid, ten cases of Tuberculosis (nine of lungs and one other), thirty cases of Measles.

The source of infection could not be traced in the Typhoid cases. One case died.

Infectious cases where they cannot be satisfactorily isolated at home are removed to Isolation Hospital at Osgodby Moor or to Lincoln City Isolation Hospital.

Bacteriological Examination of swabs, sputum and blood are made free of charge at the County Laboratory in Lincoln.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—The staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, salary £21, and a part time Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Nuisances, salary £60. The Inspector of Nuisances is also Surveyor and Rate Collector, part time. The total salary for the three last-named appointments is £100.

The smallness of the district and the consequent smallness of the salaries militates against constant and systematic supervision, and sanitary work suffers in consequence. The sanitation of the district requires more constant attention, until it shall have attained a satisfactory standard and the work has been got into smooth and systematic running order. Whether the extra work and time can be devoted to it for the present remuneration is a matter for consideration.

HOUSING.—With the exception of re-building or improvements carried out by owners—occupiers in a few cases—no alteration in the Housing conditions has taken place.

No new houses have been built.

The defects and deficiencies noted in my last report still continue.

PIG STYES.—The remarks in my last report on this head and with reference to manure still hold. I regret that there is no sign of improvement.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The civilian population as estimated for the calculation of Birth and Death Rates is 2134.

The estimated Birth Rate is 17.3 per 1000,

The estimated Death Rate is 10.7 per 1000.

The Rates for England and Wales are—Birth Rate 25.4. Death Rate 12.4.

BIRTHS.

Births Registered.										Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18	36
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	1
Total										19	18	37

DEATHS.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever	0	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Other Tuberculosis Disease... ..	0	1	1
Cancer	3	2	5
Organic Heart Disease	0	3	3
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	0	1
Congenital Debility	1	0	1
Violence apart from Suicide	1	0	1
Other Defined Diseases	5	3	8
Total all causes ...	12	10	22

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

SANITARY CONVENIENCES IN USE.

TABLE A.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1919.	1920.
Privies with Fixed Receptacles	156	140	125	116	106
„ „ Movable Receptacles	280	288	298	258	261
Fresh Water Closets	170	180	187	199	206
Waste Water Closets	3	3	1	1	1

TABLE B.

Conversion of	1913.	1914.	1915.	1919.	1920.
Fixed to Movable Receptacles	8	8	8	—	3
Fixed Receptacles to W.C.'s	16	8	7	9	7
Fixed Receptacles to Waste W.C.'s	—	—	—	—	—
Movable Receptacles to W.C.'s... ..	—	2	2	—	—
Movable Receptacles to Waste W.C.'s... ..	—	—	—	—	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

DUDLEY F. TORRENS.

